

He continued to say, "I fell to the ground from my seat and tried to act as if I were already dead. As he panned the room with his handgun, I pled for my life and screamed, 'Please don't shoot me.' We were met face to face with pure evil."

No person, Madam Speaker, or child should ever have to go through what Troy and the countless others continue to experience in our country of being gunned down while learning, gunned down while praying, gunned down while shopping, gunned down, gunned down over and over again.

This is the reality of the United States of America, where gun violence is the number one cause of death for our children.

How is this acceptable?

We must pass comprehensive gun reform immediately. Enough of the bloodshed.

#### DERELICTION OF DUTY

(Ms. BALINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, this week I have heard from grandfathers, moms, students, and even from my Uber driver the other night, all asking some version of the same question, which is, how can we continue to allow our children to get murdered in their schools?

This week, six Nashville families are heartbroken. The parents of three 9-year-olds are grieving. They will join the families of thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of American families who have lost loved ones to gun violence. Four hundred American children have been gunned down this year already.

It is unbelievable that it is happening in this Nation.

I do not accept that this is the cost of freedom in this country. Americans have said overwhelmingly that they want us to do something about it. We in Congress actually could do something about it. We can vote on the floor of this Chamber for background checks and to ban assault weapons.

Throwing up our hands and saying there is nothing that we can do is a dereliction of duty.

I stand with the children of America.

□ 1215

#### CONGRATULATING SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Ms. JACOBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACOBS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an incredibly proud San Diegan and the proud daughter of an SDSU alum to congratulate San Diego State University for making it to the Final Four for the first time in program history.

After the tournament was canceled in 2020 during one of SDSU's best seasons, our dreams of a championship appearance were dashed.

This team has risen to the challenge, and this year's tournament has been electric for SDSU, defying the odds and expectations set against them.

Led by Coach Brian Dutcher, they have been focused, steady, and resilient. They beat No. 1 seed Alabama 71-64 in the Sweet 16. They beat Creighton 57-56 after senior Darrion Trammell sank a free throw with 1.2 seconds left in the game.

Out of 363 Division I men's basketball teams, SDSU has outlasted all but three. They will face off against Florida Atlantic this weekend.

With more than 400,000 alumni, our entire community and all of California are behind you and rooting for you.

Let's go, San Diego State.

#### PREPARING CHILDREN FOR LIFE

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, extreme MAGA Republican policies on education resulted in the following: A Florida principal lost his job because they wanted to teach classical artworks like Michelangelo's classic, "David." A school in Florida banned "Ruby Bridges," a Disney movie that talks about desegregation. You have textbooks with Rosa Parks but not describing her race.

What is going to end up happening is that MAGA students are going to be so sheltered and unprepared for life. When they start work or go to a 4-year college or a trade school, they are going to be made fun of. They are going to be disrespected because they would have been kept ignorant.

Don't keep your kids ignorant. Teach them classic works of art. Teach them about civil rights. Teach them about slavery. Teach them about desegregation.

They are going to learn it anyway when they grow up. Don't shelter them.

#### BUDGET MUST RESPOND TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, in a Budget Committee hearing yesterday, I could not restrain my pain to raise the question of three little babies and three adults killed in Nashville with assault weapons.

Does anyone know the costliness—over \$200 billion of gun violence in America. I raised that in the Budget Committee because the witnesses were trying to blame all of the deficit on President Biden.

I believe in a balanced budget for States and cities like Houston. We can do that. Please understand that the

Federal Government is the umbrella on a rainy day.

A disaster in Mississippi—the Federal Government comes. A disaster in Ohio, in East Palestine—the Federal Government comes. Raging hurricanes—the Federal Government comes. Raging fires.

As a member of the Budget Committee, I can assure you we will look to the President's \$6.7 trillion budget, but we are looking to also bring down the deficit as we responsibly need to do.

I will not support eliminating Medicare payments for those who need it, Social Security payments for those who need it, education funding that the Federal Government does through Pell grants, climate change dollars, or being able to ensure that we are the umbrella on a rainy day.

The budget of the American people must respond to the American people. We will get the right budget and lift the debt ceiling.

#### RESTORING AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the passage of H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, which I voted for today, and this Chamber passed only minutes ago.

Over the past 2 years, we have seen record increases in energy prices coupled with inflation cause countless hardships for families in my district and across the country. In fact, gas prices have risen nearly every single month of President Biden's term, long before Putin's invasion of Ukraine. That is not to mention the fact that, in 2021, U.S. imports of Russian oil nearly tripled.

Despite these facts, this administration has consistently opposed American energy development.

Rather than restricting domestic energy and mineral production, we need to unlock American resources to provide energy security here at home and for our allies abroad.

H.R. 1 allows our domestic energy industry to flourish and puts us back on the path to energy dominance by removing unnecessary, complicated permitting regulations and modernizing outdated laws.

Many of the problems America's energy industry faces today stem from burdensome permitting requirements, the outdated NEPA process, and endless litigation over already leased lands and projects currently in progress.

H.R. 1 tackles these challenges head-on, unleashing American energy, reforming our broken permitting process, and imposing filing deadlines on litigation concerning energy and mining projects.